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# 2010 National Achievements in Environmental Justice Awards



*Recognizing Successful Partnerships  
Achieving Public Health and Environmental Justice Goals*

## Lead Poisoning Prevention Citizen’s Advisory Task Force San Diego, California



EHC Partnership member Jay Powell, Executive Director of the City Heights Community Development Corporation, testifies before the San Diego City Council during deliberations prior to the vote to adopt the landmark Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance on March 11, 2008.



EHC Community residents and Environmental Health Coalition at San Diego City Council chambers celebrate the adoption of the landmark Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance on March 11, 2008.



Community residents and Partnership representatives gather in City Council chambers on March 11, 2008 for the final vote by the San Diego City Council to adopt the landmark Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance.

**EPA is pleased to recognize the Lead Poisoning Prevention Citizen’s Advisory Task Force for empowering communities to conduct lead hazard control work in environmental justice communities, and ensuring the protection of children from the threat of lead-based paint and dust in San Diego.**

As a result of training to address concerns about lead poisoning, residents have become advocates and spokespersons for their community, thanks to the Lead Poisoning Prevention Citizen’s Advisory Task Force, whose purpose is to reduce exposure to lead in low-income communities of color in San Diego. Community residents also participated in the effort to draft and secure adoption by the City of San Diego of the Children’s Right to Lead-Safety Housing Ordinance.

This is the first ordinance in San Diego that did not originate from City staff. The March 2008 ordinance ensures that children living in pre-1978 renter and owner-occupied homes are protected from dangers of lead-based paint and dust. It also requires lead-safe work practices. Since the adoption of the ordinance, more than \$18 million in funding has been attracted by the Task Force to educate residents and conduct lead hazard control work in the City of San Diego. More than 160 children under the age of 6 and living in low-income communities of color have been tested for lead in their blood. More than 800 homes have been made lead-safe. The Task Force also was able to secure funds for training and certifying workers in lead remediation and lead-safe work practices. Furthermore, members of the Task Force serve as an ordinance compliance watchdog committee. The Task Force plans to work with other California communities to replicate this successful model.

### Partners

City of San Diego

Environmental Health Coalition

San Diego Housing Commission

Western Center on Law & Poverty